Subsidy for PDS

2649. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large amount of subsidy each year keeps the Public Distribution System going;

(b) if so, the amount for the last three years; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to contain the food subsidy within reasonable levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) The amount of food subsidy released during the last three years is as under :—

(Rs. in crores)

1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
8,700	9,200	12,010

(c) Some of the measures taken to reduce the subsidy are as follows :

(i) In order to increase the offtake of foodgrains and reduce carrying costs, Government has reduced the Central Issue Price of wheat from Rs. 830/- per qtl. to Rs. 610/- per qtl. and for rice from Rs. 1130/-per qtl. to Rs. 830/-per qtl. for APL families w.e.f. 12-7-2001 till 31-3-2002 or till surplus stocks lasts whichever is earlier;

(ii) Export of wheat and rice;

(iii) Allotment of foodgrains for Food for Work Programme and other welfare schemes;

(iv) The allocation of foodgrains for BPL families has been increased from 20 kg per family per month to 25 kg per family per month at BPL rates from July, 2001. The basis of allocation of foodgrains for BPL families was changed to the population projections of the Registrar General as on 1-3-2000 instead of the projected population of 1995.

(v) Foodgrains at BPL rates are available for allotment to State Government @ 5kg per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions such as beggar homes, hostels for SC/ST Backward students/Nari-Niketan etc. sponsored by the State Governments and the concerned administrative Ministry of the Government of India. Foodgrains can now be allocated under

the Annapoorna Scheme, to indigent old persons even in the case of those receiving old age pension from the State Governments;

(vi) Foodgrains at CIP applicable for BPL families will be allocated for welfare schemes implemented by the various Ministries of the Government of India;

(vii) Foodgrains will be allocated for development schemes (where the beneficiaries belong to BPL category), implemented by NGOs sponsored by the State Governments and endorsed by the administrative Ministry in the Government of India, as also by International Organisation like the World Food Programme;

(viii) Government have also launched Antyodaya Anna Yojana on 25-12-2000. Under this scheme, Government will release wheat and rice @ Rs. 2/- and Rs. 3/- per kg. respectively subject to 25 kg. per family per month to approximately one crore poorest of the poor families all over the country, and the State Governments have accordingly been requested to identify these families.

(ix) Certain measures have been taken by the Food Corporation of India to reduce costs, *viz.*, reduction in incurrence of shortage, demurrages, better utilisation of storage space etc.

FCI warehouses

2650. SHRI B. J. PANDA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of warehouses FCI has in the country and their capacity, State-wise;

(b) the storage of foodgrains in these warehouses as on the 1st October, 2001 and their respective figures during the preceding three years;

(c) the wastage of foodgrains due to storage during the same period as a percentage of the total stock, and

(d) the steps taken to reduce such wastages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) The Food Corporation of India has a total of 2275 godowns (Owned & Hired/Covered and CAP) with a total storage capacity of 35.45 million tonnes as on 1-10-2001. Statewise details are given in Statement (*See below*).